

DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON *NOTIOSOREX* AND
MEGASOREX IN WESTERN MEXICO

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The known distributions of *Notiosorex crawfordi* and *Megasorex gigas* were summarized recently by Armstrong and Jones (1972a and 1972b, respectively). We here present additional distribution records for these taxa.

Curatorial work on North American soricids in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM) has resulted in the discovery of the only known specimen of *N. crawfordi* from the state of Zacatecas, Mexico. The specimen, an adult female (USNM 90845), was collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman on 4 September 1897 near Plateado, Zacatecas. According to Goldman (1951:288), Plateado is a small village near the northern end of Sierra Moroni, 28 mi SE of Colotlán, Jalisco. Our map (American Geographical Society, NF13) shows the airline distance between the two places to be 24 km. Nelson and Goldman worked around Plateado and the adjacent slopes of Sierra Moroni from 31 August to 4 September 1897 and all specimens collected in this vicinity were labelled "Plateado." Nelson's report (USNM archives) on this area states that the *Notiosorex* and two specimens of *Sorex saussurei* (USNM 90844 and 90846) were taken "in damp spots under rocky ledges in the Sierra Moroni" and were "not common." The precise elevation at which the *Notiosorex* was captured is unknown but was at least 7,600 ft (the elevation of Plateado) and may have been as high as 8,500 ft, the highest elevation given for Sierra Moroni. Either of these figures increases the known elevational range of this species from the previously reported 7,000 ft in Arizona (Lange, 1959). External measurements (in mm) as given on the label are: total length, 94; tail, 28; and hind foot, 12. Although the specific identity can be ascertained from the skull, the skull is too badly fragmented to measure. We tentatively assign the specimen to *N. c. evotis* on the basis of the external measurements given by Armstrong and Jones (1972a) for *N. crawfordi*. Twente and Baker (1951) identified four specimens from near Guadalajara, Jalisco, only as *N. crawfordi* and noted that *N. c. evotis* was then known only from Mazatlán, Sinaloa. Baker and Alcorn (1953) assigned three specimens from Michoacán to *N. c. evotis* on geographic grounds. Armstrong and Jones (1972a) assigned all the Jalisco and Michoacán material to *N. c. crawfordi*. Resolution of subspecific relationships among *Notiosorex* from this area of México must await additional comparative material.

Schlitter (1973) first reported *N. c. evotis* from Nayarit (San Cayetano,

5 mi W Tepic). We are now aware of two additional Nayarit specimens of this shrew: an adult female (NAU 1904, skeleton only), taken 15 June 1971 at 1 mi S Compostela; and another adult female (USNM 508358) captured on 11 March 1975 near El Refilión. External and cranial measurements of these two are as follows (Compostela specimen first; cranial measurements after Jackson, 1928): total length, 100, 99; tail, 34, 30; hind foot, 13, 13; ear, —, 8; condylobasal length, 17.4, 18.8; cranial breadth, 8.1, 8.5; palatal length, 7.2, 7.7; least interorbital breadth, 4.5, 4.1; maxillary breadth, 5.4, 5.5; maxillary toothrow, 6.0, 6.5. These measurements are close to those for animals from southern Sinaloa (Armstrong and Jones, 1972a), although greater values in some dimensions may indicate a cline with southern animals being larger. It is of interest that recent field work in Nayarit has not yielded any specimens from the northern part of that state. The southernmost record in Sinaloa is near Escuinapa (Baker, 1962). Nonetheless, we expect *N. c. evotis* to occur at low to moderate elevations throughout Nayarit.

Megasorex gigas was first reported from Nayarit from 7.3 mi ESE Amatlán de Cañas, 5,000 ft (Jones, 1966). This specimen was taken in a moist situation among lava rocks. Two Nayarit specimens of this relatively rare shrew are in the collection of The Museum, Michigan State University (MSU). One, an adult male (MSU 17086), was taken 16 July 1971 at Mineral de Tigre, 6 mi E Huajicori, 1,340 ft; the other, an adult female (MSU 16102), was captured 9 mi WSW Compostela, 2,000 ft on 16 July 1970. On 31 October 1975, A. L. Gardner found a dead adult male *Megasorex* (USNM 511264) floating in a small water tank 3 mi N Coapan, Nayarit. The animal, which was found at 1000 hr was in fresh condition and must have fallen into the tank earlier in the morning. This locality is also characterized by an abundance of lava rocks but the habitat is a xeric one, disturbed by grazing.

Measurements of these three specimens (in the order listed above) are: total length, 118, 124, 121; tail, 45, 43, 40; hind foot, 15, 16, 16; ear, 9, 12, 9; condylobasal length, —, 21.2, 22.0; cranial breadth, —, 10.1, 10.8; palatal length, 9.9, 9.5, 9.8; interorbital breadth, 5.1, 5.1, 5.2; maxillary breadth, 6.4, 6.4, 6.7; maxillary toothrow, —, 7.9, 8.6. Values for these measurements are slightly smaller than those given by Armstrong and Jones (1972b) for a small series of *M. gigas* from Guerrero. The specimen from near Huajicori extends the known range of *M. gigas* approximately 220 km northward from Amatlán and would indicate that the giant shrew occurs throughout the state at low elevations.

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